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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/053,791	01/22/2002	Katsuya Tsunogai	JP920000423US1	4276

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IBM CORPORATION
IPLAW IQ0A/40-3
1701 NORTH STREET
ENDICOTT, NY 13760

EXAMINER

ALAM, UZMA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2157

DATE MAILED: 07/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to the election filed on October 18, 2005. Claims 1-26 are pending. Claims 1-6 and 25 are the elected and claims 7-24 and 26 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-6 and 25 represent a connection accepting system.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-6 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Roberts et al. US Patent No. 6,754,693. Roberts teaches a method for connecting to a server and fulfilling a request based on queue (see abstract).

As per claim 1, Roberts teaches a connection accepting system, comprising:
client terminals connected to a network (column 7, lines 1-35); and
a first server for accepting connection requests from said client terminals through said network (client requesting connection to a second computer through a network and through a server; column 7, lines 1-35),

wherein said server includes a priority order setting unit which, upon receiving a first connection request from a first client terminal of said client terminals, sets a connection priority for said first client terminal and transmits data conveying said connection priority to said first client terminal; and a connection managing unit for allowing connection of said client terminals according to connection priority upon receiving a second connection request from a second client terminal of said client terminals after said first connection request (a first request is made to the

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second computer which puts the client in a queue; column 14, lines 49-60; column 15, lines 22-57); and

said first client terminal displays connection priority information, based on said data conveying said connection priority (the queue is sent to the client and displayed on the client terminal; column 14, lines 49-60; column 15, lines 8-20; column 15, lines 61-67; column 16, lines 1-10).

As per claim 2, Roberts teaches a connection accepting system according to claim 1, further comprising a second server for executing a process according to requests from said client terminals,

wherein said first server accepts said first and second connection requests as connection requests for said second server and, when said connection managing unit allows connection of said first and second client terminals, connects said first and second client terminals with said second server (connecting the client with the second computer; column 7, lines 36-50; column 8, lines 25-42)

As per claim 3, Roberts teaches a server for accepting connection requests from client terminals through a network, comprising: a connection-order setting unit which, upon receiving a first connection request from a first client terminal of said client terminals, sets an order of connection for said first client terminal (column 14, lines 49-60; column 15, lines 22-57); and

a connection managing unit for allowing connection of said client terminals according to said order of connection, upon receiving a second connection request from a second client

terminal of said client terminals after said first connection request (column 14, lines 49-60; column 15, lines 22-57).

As per claim 4, Roberts teaches the accepting server according to claim 3, wherein data of said order of connection set by said connection-order setting unit is transmitted to said first client terminal (client is notified of queue by the server; column 14, lines 49-60; column 15, lines 8-20; column 15, lines 61-67; column 16, lines 1-10); and

said first client terminal is caused to display connection-order information, based on said data client is notified of queue by the server; column 14, lines 49-60; column 15, lines 8-20; column 15, lines 61-67; column 16, lines 1-10).

As per claim 5, Roberts teaches the accepting server according to claim 3, further comprising a connection-number monitoring unit for monitoring a number of connectable client terminals, wherein said connection managing unit allows connection of one of said client terminals which is highest in said order of connection, after acceptance of connection of a new client terminal has become possible, based on a number of connectable client terminals obtained by said connection-number monitoring unit (the priority of the client is based on user preferences and second computer representative availability and the connection is made; column 15, lines 8-20; column 19, lines 18-67).

As per claim 6, Roberts teaches the accepting server according to claim 3, wherein a program for automatically executing said second connection request again is transmitted to said

client terminal to which said order of connection has been set (column 10, lines 7-38; column 16, lines 40-67).

As per claim 25, Roberts teaches a computer program which is executed by a computer which accepts requests for connection from a client terminal, comprising:

a process for setting a connection priority to said client terminal when a connection request from said client terminal is accepted (column 7, lines 1-35);

a process for granting a right of connection to said client terminal according to the connection priority (a first request is made to the second computer which puts the client in a queue; column 14, lines 49-60; column 15, lines 22-57); and

a process for confirming whether a right of connection has been granted to said client terminal when a connection request is made by said client terminal and allowing connection of said client terminal when grant of the right of connection is confirmed (the priority of the client is based on user preferences and second computer representative availability and the connection is made; column 15, lines 8-20; column 19, lines 18-67).

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 and 25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Uzma Alam whose telephone number is (571) 272-3995. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday 5:30 AM - 2:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Uzma Alam
Ua
June 26, 2006


ARIO ETIENNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100